THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act, 1956 (ITPA) supplemented by the Indian Penal Code prohibits trafficking in human beings including children for purpose of prostitution and lay down severe penalties for traffickers. The ITPA is now being further amended providing for more stringent punishment for trafficking in persons including girl children. The amended Bill was introduced in Lok Sabha on 22nd May, 2006 and is now under the examination of the Ministry related Parliamentary Standing Committee. The Ministry of women and Child Development conducts advocacy, awareness generation, sensitization programmes for prevention of trafficking of women and girl children. The Central Advisory Committee on combating Child Prostitution headed by Secretary, Ministry of Women and Child Development, Government of India reviews the State's activities in combating trafficking and prostitution every quarter. The Ministry of Women and Child Development also runs Swadhar Shelter Homes which provide shelter, food, clothing, emotional support, counselling, rehabilitation and other facilities to sex workers including girls sex workers.

State Commissions for Protection of Child Rights

549. SHRI MAHENDRA MOHAN: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that many States have not constituted the Commission for Protection of child Rights in their States;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and

(c) what efforts have been made by Government to ensure constitution of these Commissions in all States to achieve the desired result under the legislation in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Most of the States, however, are in the process of constituting the State Commission for Protection of Child Rights.

(c) The matter is being pursued with the State Governments, for constitution of the State Commissions as early as possible so that the objectives of the legislation could be achieved.